

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Chaudoreille in view of the patent to Narasimhan.

Also, the claims are objected to and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

In connection with the Examiner's formal objections and rejections to the claims, applicant amended claim 1 in compliance with the Examiner's requirements and canceled claim 15. It is believed that the Examiner's grounds for the formal objections and rejections therefore should be considered as not tenable and should be withdrawn.

After carefully considering the Examiner's for the rejection of the claims over the art, applicants submitted claim 1, the broadest claim on file, so as to more clearly define the present invention and to distinguish it from the prior art.

In accordance with the present invention, a connection element is provided which has a first and a second abutment surface mountable on a wall of the machine or the machine part and connectable with the electric motor correspondingly, and at least one of the abutment surfaces is provided with the thin metallic hard coating applied on and non-detachably connected with the abutment surface, wherein the thin metallic hard coating is formed as a surface treatment for providing efficient thermal insulation between the electric motor and the machine or the machine part, wherein the thin metallic hard coating is a surface treatment inseparable from the abutment surface and has a thermal conductivity selected to provide efficient thermal insulation between the electric motor and the machine or the machine part, in particular with a value smaller than 2 W/Km.

It should be emphasized that the thin metallic hard coating is configured to provide thermal insulation between the electric motor and the machine or the machine part and its thermal conductivity value is selected for this particular purpose to be smaller than 2 W/Km.

The patent to Chaudoreille does not have a thin metallic hard coating applied on and non-detachably connected with the abutment surface for providing efficient thermal insulation, which thin metallic coating is a surface treatment inseparable from the abutment surface and

having a thermal conductivity with a value smaller than 2 W/Km, as admitted by the Examiner. The patent to Narasimhan discloses an abutment surface provided with a thin metallic hard coating applied on and non-detachably connected with the abutment surface, which thin metallic hard coating is a surface treatment inseparable from the abutment surface.

The Examiner indicated that the thin metallic hard coating disclosed in the patent to Narasimhan has a low thermal conductivity value and cited corresponding parts of the patent to Narasimhan. At the same time he admitted that this reference did not disclose a thin metallic coating having a thermal conductivity with a value smaller than 2 W/Km, and at the same time stated it was a design consideration.

Applicants have to respectfully disagree with this position for the following reasons.

As disclosed in the patent to Narasimhan, the tribological system is disposed between the corresponding parts of the device disclosed in the patent to Narasimhan and is formed to withstand prolonged high speed and high temperature operation. This has nothing to do with the thin metallic hard coating provided in the connecting element of the present invention which is configured for providing efficient thermal

insulation between the electric motor and the machine or the machine part, and for this purpose its thermal conductivity value is selected smaller than 2 W/Km. The corresponding layers 60 and 62 in the Narasimhan patent are configured and their properties are selected to withstand prolonged high speed and high temperature operation as explained in lines 15-19, column 2 of the reference. Thus, the layers 60 and 62 are neither configured to provide efficient thermal insulation nor they have any value of thermal conductivity selected specifically to provide efficient thermal insulation and in particular smaller than 2 W/Km.

This feature of the present invention is not disclosed in the patent to Narasimhan and can not be derived from it as a matter of obviousness. As for the combination of the references applied by the Examiner, it is believed to be clear that any construction produced from the combination proposed by the Examiner would also not include the above mentioned new features of the present invention as defined now in the amended claim 1.

In order to arrive at the applicant's invention from the combination of the references, the references have to be fundamentally modified by providing the corresponding coatings or layers such that they guarantee efficient thermal insulation between the electric motors and the

machine or the machine parts, and for this purpose have a thermal conductivity value below 2 W/Km.

Claim 1 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Claim 16 also contains the features which are not disclosed in the prior art, and it should be allowed.

New claims 17 and 18 define the specific locations of the coating, which are also not disclosed in the references, and therefore these claims should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully submitted.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the

undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

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